

THE  
HISTORY 2  
OF  
Argalus & Parthenia;

A Choice Flower gathered out of  
Sir PHILIP SIDNEY'S RARE GARDEN



Printed in the Year 1788.—(75)

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# THE HISTORY OF ARGALUS and PARTHENIA.

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## C H A P. I.

*The Beginning of the Loves of Argalus and Partenia.*

**I**N the pleasant Country of Arcadia, a place noted for rural delights and sweetness of air, reigned a Prince named Basilius; a Man possessed of all those amiable Qualifications which rendered him beloved, honoured, and esteemed by all ranks of his Subjects. This good King married a young Princeſs named Cyrecia, daughter to the King of Cyprus, a lady of beauty, wit, virtue, and unspotted chastity; with whom there came to the court of Basilius, a cousin German of her's named Argalus, led with her by the humour of youth to observe the manner and customs of strange Countries; being a gentleman both learned and valiant.— He had not long resided in that place,

before

before the fame of a gallant lady's virtues  
and beauty reached his ears, and so affected  
his heart that he could not but take  
an opportunity to see her; and in seeing  
he could not avoid hating and loving so  
matchless a Piece of Nature's Perfection.  
Her name was Parthenia, daughter to a  
great lady of the court; endowed with  
every accomplishment to render the man  
happy unto whose lot she fell.— Such  
rare perfections, meeting with those of  
Argalus, soon found out each other; and  
to be short, they kindled a fire in each  
others breast, which was attended with  
many trials and disappointments; as the  
sequel of this history will shew.

## C H A P. II.

*Parthenia denies the Suit of Demagoras.*

THERE has been a good while a suitor to Parthenia, a nobleman of Laconia, named Demogoras, a man of riches and power, stubbornly stout, loving no-body but himself. Parthenia suiting his desires, he made application to her mother for her consent to marry her daughter; and his riches and his smooth tongue soon got her consent thereunto; upon which she went to Parthenia to acquaint her with the same; who being constant to Argalus, and detesting Demogoras, said that she was sorry she must refuse, assuring her mother she would rather be buried alive than wedded to Demogoras.

This answer was very unpleasant to the Mother, who being fully bent to marry her to Demagoras, tried all the ways that a witty and hard hearted woman could use upon an humble daughter, in whom the only resisting power was Love: But the more she assaulted, the

more

more Parthenia defended, and the more she made her mother obstinate in the assault; who at length finding Argalus standing between them, and that it was ne that most eclipsed her affection from shining upon Demoragas, sought all means how to remove him, so much the more as he manifested himself an unremoveable suitor to her daughter, first by employing him in many dangerous enterprizes, as desperate duels, bloody combats with Giants, Lions, Dragons, wild Boars, and the like. — But the more his virtue was tried the more pure it grew; and the things she did to overthrow him did but so much the more advance his honour; whereupon she struggled against all reason, because she would have her will, conspired with Demoragas the following treacherous Plan against him.

## CHAP. III.

**K**Nowing the valour of Argalus, there was no way to dispatch him openly; she therefore resolved to imprison him, and so effect it secretly; and to that purpose prevails upon Parthenia's maid to secrecy and assistance; upon which the old Lady called Athelia, (that being her name) laying, you know the Love I bear to my Daughter Parthenia, and that in her welfare consists my happiness; now so it is, Parthenia is in love yea languishing; she loves one that treats her Fondness with disdain, and this increases her misery: it is Argalus she doats on, nothing but Death is like to be the Issue of her Fondness, therefore I have formed a Project, which I doubt not but by your Assistance will be of great Service to her—Madam replied the Maid, I am not ignorant of my mistress's affection, and will, at the Hazard of my Life procure her contentment—Hereupon the old Lady stepped into the closet, and wrote

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wrote the following letter in the name of Parthenia.

“ To the faithful Lover Argalus;

“ Although my mother’s malice enforces my tongue to hide my passion, Parthenia’s love is still the same — What I send thee drink speedily ; for there is treason already hatched against you ; from which this will excuse you.

Thy constant

PARTHENIA.”

So sealing the letter she gave it to Athelia together with a small phial of venomous poison ; telling her it was a liquor called Nepenthee, which the Gods when they were dry used to drink of ; it having such a secret virtue that it would make the proudest lover creep and whine to his mistress for favour, and such to doat as never loved at all ; charging her not to taste it, nor deliver it to any but Argalus’s own hands.

That night Athelia could not sleep, and in the morning begins her journey, not

suspect-

suspecting the treachery of her message, but before she got half way, she made a stand, and began to think of the excellent virtue of the water she was carrying to Argalus, and woman like, being desirous of what was forbid, she taunted of it, and then redoubled her speed towards her journey's end; when all on a sudden her bowels began to gripe her, her tongue to blister, her veins to boil, and a cold sweat overspread her whole body, and staggering a while, at last tumbled down, iwell-ed like a bladder and died.

This news soon came to the ears of Argalus, and by the Letter found in Athelia's pocket, the whole plot was discovered; which being related to the old Lady, she was so enraged with spite, grief, and madness, that she threw herself on the ground, crying out, Welcome Death thou easer of all evils, and in a desperate frenzy she died.



## C H A P. IV.

*Demagoras's wicked Scheme to frustrate  
The Marriage of Argalus and Parthenia:  
And the unhappy Consequences  
thoreof.*

**T**HIS main objection being thus removed, Argalus had free access to his Parthenia, and the day was soon appointed for the solemnization of their marriage; and Argalus went home to fetch some of his Friends to honour the same.—In the mean time Demagoras, who now saw all his hopes frustrated, was resolved to be revenged on the Woman, though he durst not meddle with the Man; so with a Heart full of malice, he comes to the House where Parthenia dwelt, asking to speak with her; and being admitted into her presence, with merciless hands, her weak arms in vain resisting, rubbed all over her face a most horrible poison, which immediately made her look more ugly than a leaper; and having done this mischief, he made his escape. But the abominable <sup>w</sup>nails of this fact

fact coming soon after to the King's ear, he was banished the Country.

Argalus returning, thinking to enjoy the utmost felicity came to Parthenia, and seeing her in that condition thought some hag was placed on purpose to mock him; but being assured it was really she, and the cause of this disfigurement, no tongue can express his grief and sorrow; for a while he was struck dumb till at last love and pity made him break silence and with all the Eloquence he was master of, he laboured both to drive the extremity of her sorrow from her and to hasten the celebration of their marriage, as unfeignedly joyful as if she had never been deprived of the goodly portion of nature, her most excessive beauty.

But has he gave this rare example of true love, so she on the other side took as strange a course of affection; for she could not find in her heart that he should be tied to one so unworthy of his presence; yet he conjured her by the remembrance of their former loves not to make him so unhappy as to think he had not only lost her face, but her heart; beseeching her with tears to believe that his love was deeper

deeper than her Skin, and that his own life would be always a burden to him if he could not enjoy her.—But she wringing him by the hand, made him this answer, My Lord, God knows I love you; if I was the Princess of the whole World, and had all the Blessings that ever the World produced, I should make no Delay to lay them and myself under your Feet; or if I had continued as I was, though I must confess, far unworthy of you, yet would I, with too great Joy for my heart now to think of, have accepted your vouching me to be yours, and with faith and obedience would have supplied all other defects; but first let me be more miserable than I am, e'er I match Argalus to such a Parthenia, Live happy, dear Argalus I give you full Liberty, and I beseech you take it; and I assure you I shall rejoice, whatever becomes of me to see you coupled as may be fit for your honour and satisfaction,

Satisfied, she burst into tears, blaming her Fortune, and wishing her own death. Argalus with a heart full of grief pursued his Desires, and she to avoid his further Entreaty, one night privately fol-

away, letting none know where she went or what became of her.

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## C H A P. V.

*The Queen of CORINTH's Project to try  
the Love of ARGALUS, and the happy  
Effects of it.*

**A**rgalus sought her long, but at last despairing to find her, took up his abode in the house of Kalinder, Uncle to Parthenia, with whom he had noble entertainment, but no peace of mind.

One day a Messenger came to Kalinder telling him a noble Lady, Kinswoman to fair Helen, Queen of Corinth, was come thither, desiring to lodge at his House.— Kalinder went to meet her, hoping it was his Niece Parthenia; but he soon found his mistake. The lady asked to speak with Argalus, who being come, she said, My Lord, I being lately in the Country of Queen Helen of Corinth, there came to that place the lady Parthenia; so disfigured, that I think Greece has nothing so ugly to behold; I would not believe it

was

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was she, till she produced many undeniable Proofs. I took the best Care of her I could, and she told me the whole story of her Misfortune and your Constancy; but no outward cherishing could salve the inward Sore of her Mind, and a few Days since she died; but before her Death she earnestly desired me to think of no Husband but you, as a man most worthy of my Love; withal she gave me this Ring to deliver to you, desiring the affection you bore to her might turn to me; therefore, according to her Desire, I am come with faithful Love to offer myself; and beseech you to accept me.—Argalus with many Sighs, thus replied. Most excellent Lady, I am obliged to you for this, and had I not vowed to wed with none but Parthenia, ~~you~~, above all others had got my ~~Love~~.—Must I then, says she, be disgraced with this Denial. Noble lady, I am obliged to retute, since I am not capable of enjoying.—When he had spoke these Words she ran and embraced him, saying Why then Argalus, take thy Parthenia.—After some Silence, she said, I being retired to a solitary Place making my sad complaint, the Queen of Corinth passed by

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14  
by and over-heard me, she pittyng me.



took me home, and got me cured by her own Physician; after which she advised me to take this Step to try your Love.

This account being confirmed by a Corinthian Gentleman who attends her, great was the Joy of all parties, the happy effects of which the Reader will find in the next chapter,

CHAP.

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## C H A P. VI.

*The Celebration of the Marriage of Argalus  
and Parthenia.*

THE happy Pair being thus blessed by this Meeting, nothing remained but the completion of their desires; accordingly the Day appointed being come, Argalus and Parthenia, richly attired, and gallantly attended by the Country People, and approaching the Temple was by the Priest received with this Invocation,

*Hymen, be propitious now,  
Let not a Wrinkle crown thy Brow;  
But with all Joy and Happiness,  
This young Couple ever bless.  
Entering in thy Band they are,  
Fight they must a pleasant war.  
Yet shall no Bloodshed stain the Field,  
No hurt is done when both Sides yield,  
Still defend them from Annoy.  
And send them many Years of Joy.  
Bless them with Increase, and then  
Crown 'em with Bliss henceforth, Amen.*

And

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And so joining their Hands; he dismissed them with this Benediction,



*Now the sacred Knot is ty'd  
Between the Bridegroom and the Bride.  
Who are no longer two, but one,  
So to remain till Life is done.  
Still blest be they in all Affairs,  
Living in Love, and void of Cares;  
Their Children's Children for to see,  
Spring up like Branches prosperously.*

This done, they returned to Kalinder Houle, where an elegant Dinner was provided; after which entered four young Shepherds and Shepherdesses adorn'd with wreaths of Bays and chaplets of flower-

rowned Bride and Bridegroom with the  
rest

ere present, may you all be ever blest;  
hat so your lives may flourish gloriously,  
rown'd with Love and sweet Prosperity.  
nd noble Sir's tho' Strangers here, we  
crave,

[have  
hat our good Wills may freely find and  
our Kind acceptance, being the only aim  
or which we in this manner hither came,  
ur Cheitest Study being only bent,  
so we can but give you true Content.

Then they presented them with a de-  
ightful Mask, full of curious dances, giv-  
g Satisfaction to the Beholders, and  
ving danced the last measure, thus con-  
cluded;

Joy, Health, Love, Peace, and Bliss,  
With all things else beside,  
Now and at all times attend  
The Bridegroom and the Bride.

The day being thus spent in sports and  
pastimes, and night approaching, made a  
paration between the friends, but a more  
m union between Argalus and Parthe-  
nus, who were conducted to their lodg-

## C H A P. VII.

*The unfortunate Death of Argalus.*

LAVING this happy Couple sweetly satisfied in the enjoyment of each other's love, we now pass on to the conclusion of the history; In those Days there happened an accident which put an end to all their Felicity, and thus it was: Amphialus, a Prince of Valour, being in love with Philocles the King's youngest daughter, who had stole her away, and kept her in a strong Castle of his own; to which father laying siege, Amphialus sent out Challenge that if he had any knight in Camp that durst venture himself in single Combat with him, and if he should overcome him, he would immediately set Philocles at Liberty: otherwise he resolved to keep her:—Hereupon many Knights fought, but were slain, to the Grief of the King her Father; at last he sent a Messenger to Argalus, desiring him to take his Quarrel in hand; who immediately granted his Desire, notwithstanding the warmest Persuasions of Parthe-

ia to the contrary ; and taking his leave with many Kisses, and a Promise of speedy return, he rode to the Camp, and the next Morning entered into the Combat with Amphialus; their Swords battering their armour, and making breaches for the Lances to enter. Long they maintained equal and dangerous Fight, until at last, both were faint with Loss of Blood;



us they fell struggling to the Ground, neither scorning to yield, yet neither able overcome.

After

After a short Pause they fell to it again  
 and now Argalus's best blood being spent  
 and his noble heart quite tired out, his  
 sword dropped out of his hand and him  
 self into a swoon; at which instant Par-  
 thenia came running in between them  
 who dreaming she saw Argalus in such  
 Case as she now found him, made h<sup>t</sup>  
 haste thither, but too late, Argalus having  
 only so much strength left as to spe-  
 a few words to her, so breathed his last  
 in her Bosom, whose unspeakable Lam-  
 tations we are not able to express.—Aph-  
 alius himself being much grieved there-  
 at, had her and the Corpse of her beloved  
 Argalus safely conveyed to the Camp  
 of Basilius, and there caused him to be  
 honourably interred with all funeral pom-  
 and military honour.



## C H A P. VII.

Part heartbenia's Valour and Constancy in revenging the Death of Argalus; with her Death and their Epitaph.

ARTHENIA being now weary of her Life, since Argalus was dead, and it was known that the same hand which had priv'd him of Life, should also end her: whereupon she armed herself like a thanian in black armour, on her shield was engurged a beautiful Child with two heads; whereof one was dead and the other alive, so set so as necessarily to look for Death; some words was, NO WAY TO BE AIDED FROM DEATH BUT BY DEATH.

So calling herself the Knight of the Tomb, accompanied by some Damsels all apparelled in mourning Weeds, went to the Camp of Basilius, and from thence sent Defiance to Amphialus, who honourably accepted it: and easily overcoming so weak an enemy, was moved with pity, and desired him to cease the Combat, he however having deserved any hate from him, but she, instead of accepting his courteous

courteous proffer, gave this short answer: False Traitor, thou liest, which so enraged him, that closing with her he overthrew her, and with the fall thrust her mortally in the body, and then went to pull off her helmet, thinking to make her recant what she had said, or cut off her head. But the head-piece was no sooner off, but there fell about the shoulders of the overcome Knight, the tresses of fair golden hair, which with the face, he soon knew to be Parthenia, the unfortunate wife of Argalus. Amphialus at this was astonished with grief, compassion, and shame detesting fortune, that made him unfortunate by this Victory: so putting off his own helmet, he knelt down to her and with tears testifying his sorrow, offered to help her; but Parthenia, who had the inward Messenger of her desired death, looking upon him, and then turning her sight away again, as from some detestable object, thus faintly answered him. Sir, I pray you let my maids take away my body untouched by you, the only honour I now desire by your means is that I have no honour of you, Argalus made no such bargain with you, that the hands which

which killed him, should help me, I have  
 them the Service which I desire, no-  
 thing remains now but that I go to live  
 with him, by whose death I can do no-  
 thing but die — Then pausing a little,  
 fainting and again coming to herself  
 said, O sweet death welcome, now I  
 will the bands untied of this cruel life!  
 death answer for me, that my thoughts  
 were not so much as in a dream tasted  
 comfort since they were deprived of  
 Argalus: I come, my Argalus, I come,  
 O God, hide my faults in thy mer-  
 cy and grant as I feel thou dost, that  
 thy eternal love we may love each  
 other eternally, and this O' Lord — But  
 Eupros cut off her Sentence, for with  
 halting up her hands and eyes to  
 skies, her noble soul departed: one  
 might well assure themselves to heaven,  
 which left the body in so heavenly a de-  
 cease — Her gentlewomen weep-  
 carried away her body, and was met  
 King Basilius and his principal nobi-  
 lity, who mournfully attended her remains  
 to the sepulchre wherein her beloved Ar-  
 galus lay and into which she was entomb-  
 ed with all the solemn pomp imaginable;  
 and

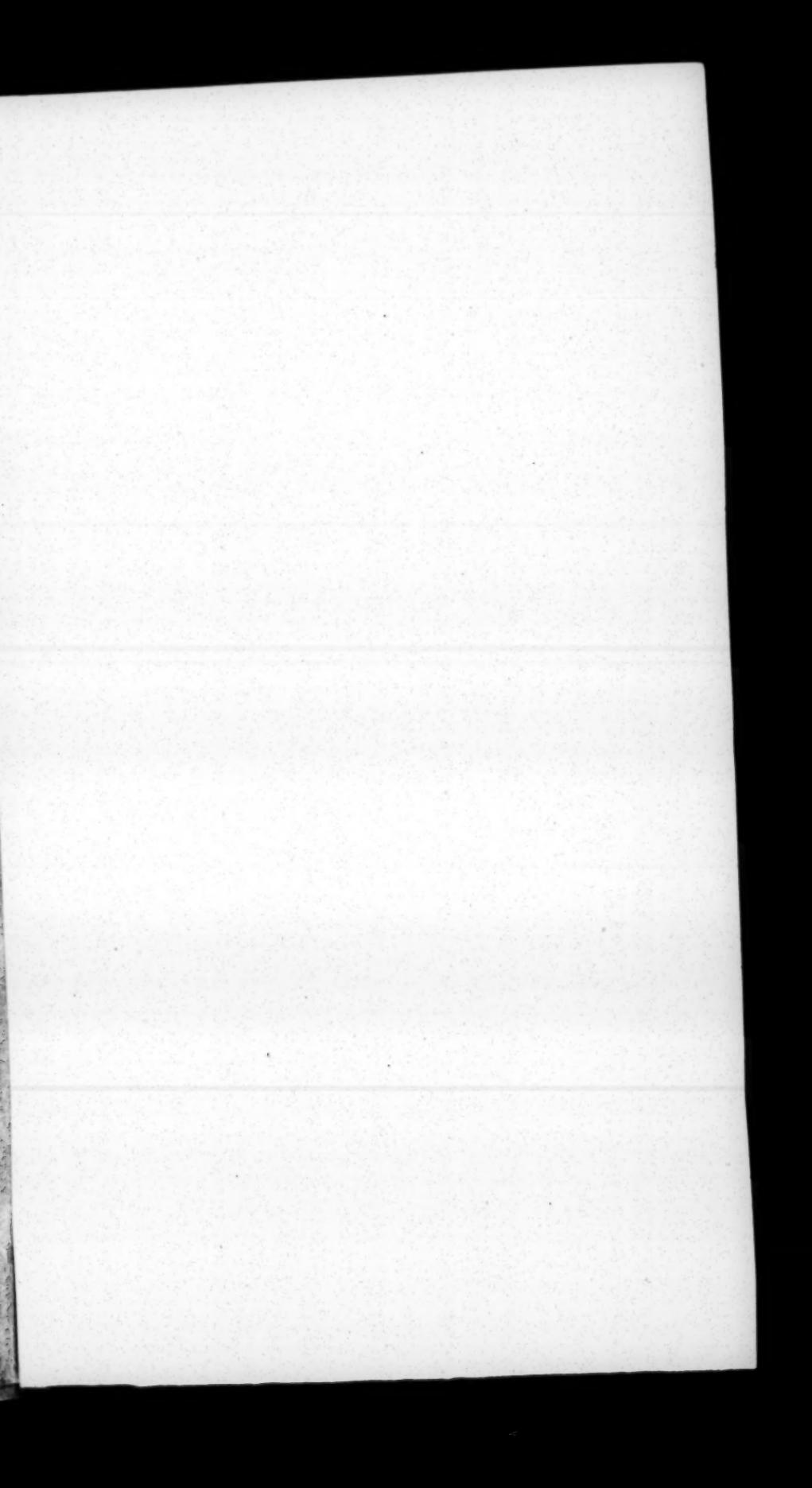
and the King caused the following epitaph to be engraven on the tomb of these stanch lovers.

### The Epitaph.

*His Being was in her alone.  
And he not being, she was none;  
They joy'd one Joy, one grief they grieve  
One Love they lov'd, one Life they liv'd;  
They both were one, so was the Sword,  
That did his Death, her Death afford  
As now they rest, so now the Stone,  
That tombs these two, is just but one,*

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